



## ON THE MAIN STREET

"That great statesman Winston Churchill was just two months older than me. I never had the pleasure of being near him at any time, just seeing him on television, but I admired him. In fact, I have an admiration for all great men."

The speaker was Ernest (Ernie) Harrison, 26 Mill Street who celebrates his ninetieth birthday on Monday.

Mr. Harrison has a remarkably retentive memory. "I met Sir John A. Macdonald, the founder of Confederation", said Mr. Harrison, "He was Canada's greatest Confederation statesman. I met Sir Sam Hughes, another great statesman many times, and his great contribution in recruiting and taking the first Canadian Expeditionary force overseas in the first World War will go down in history".

"I have also talked and shaken the hand of another great statesman, John Diefenbaker", said Mr. Harrison, "I met him in his home town of Prince Albert and I met him in Lindsay not very long ago. 'Diefenbaker is a born leader and I will not be surprised if he again leads Canada as Prime Minister'".

"I was a personal friend of the Hon. Henry Glendenning, who lived at Manilla and he was an able man. There is another fine gentleman I would like to mention", he said "he is the late John Short. He was not a political statesman but when it came to being Chief of Police in Lindsay he was in a class by himself. He never ran away from a battle and he had many when he was Lind-

say's one man police force. He was my brother-in-law", added Mr. Harrison.

At the ripe age of 90, Ernie Harrison looks back with fond recollections to the days he spent on a farm in Scott Township near Uxbridge, to the days when he farmed on a choice bit of property between Woodville and Cannington, to the time when he was a tiller of the soil at Manilla, and then near Sonya, and finally back to Manilla again. He is a gentleman with the ring of youth in his voice and he "gets around". Locally he has taken a keen interest in municipal matters and related with a chuckle of the day he had a run-in with Mayor Holtom. "I came out best", he added.

It appears Mr. Harrison was lodging in an apartment on Lindsay Street South when the citizens found it impossible to use the sidewalk because the snow plow shoved the snow over the curb and covered the walk. "People were mad and I called up the mayor to see if pedestrians did not have as much right to have walks plowed out as motorists had to have the road plowed. The mayor called back but I was out but he told my landlady that I had no right to kick as I was not a taxpayer. Later on I attended a council meeting and I was invited to the front to address the council. I informed the mayor that I was a taxpayer. In this way — I was a tenant and thus helping the landlady to pay her taxes. The council admitted the fact. I watch council procedures by reading

"The Post", he said.

Mr. Harrison in the days gone by took pride in showing agricultural horses at the Lindsay Fair. He also prided himself in having one of the best herds of cattle in the Manilla area. He had very little time to curl but played a bit of baseball back in the days when Manilla had a fine ball team.

"What about the Church?", he was asked. "Well, in the old days I was a Methodist, then when we moved back near Sonya, we went to the nearest church and it was a Presbyterian, and I became one, joined the Church and served on the official board. Then when I moved back to Manilla I became a member of the United Church and when I moved to Lindsay I walked to the Queen Street Church. This was quite a way off so I then became a member of the William Street Baptist Church and I like it. Anyway", he observed, "all these church people are either going down or up when they pass on, so there is not a great deal of difference, but I do think there are too many denominations, too many different sects".

### MUCH ENJOYMENT

Mr. Harrison gets much enjoyment listening to radio and watching television. "I can find enjoyment in any kind of television programme", he said, "I am a Toronto Maple Leaf supporter when it comes to hockey".

Mr. Harrison said he enjoyed three meals a day and sometimes a snack before going to bed "and I do not mind telling you I enjoy a little beverage now and then, it helps keep me young", he said.

Life in Lindsay is a pleasure according to this gentleman who is very much hale and hearty at ninety.